

Site Visit Report

DATE:	October 20, 2023
SUBJECT:	Natural Soil Products 2286 East Center Street Tremont, PA 17981
TO:	File
FROM:	Roger Bellas <i>RBB</i> Environmental Program Manager Waste Management
THROUGH:	David F. Matcho, P.E. <i>DFM</i> Environmental Engineer Manager Waste Management
	Sam Warmate <i>NSW</i> Environmental Engineer Waste Program
	Cherise Kuzma <i>CK</i> Inspector/Specialist Waste Program
	Rachel Miller <i>RMM</i> EGM-Operations Waste Program

SITE VISIT NARRATIVE:

On October 20, 2023, Cherise Kuzma (Solid Waste Specialist), Rachel Miller (Environmental Group Manager), Sam Warmate (Environmental Engineer), Rob Sax (Local Government Liaison) and I (Waste Program Manager) conducted a site visit at Natural Soil Products (“NSP”) located in Frailey Township, Schuylkill County. The purpose of the visit was to conduct some off-site observations related to recent odor complaints and conduct a site visit to document the construction status of the new aerated composting Gore System. Upon arrival to the area at approximately 10:30 AM, no odors were observed on Interstate 81 near the Facility, the Tower City Exit, Donaldson, or near the entrance to NSP. That said, the predominant wind direction was out of the South Southwest and therefore these areas were not downwind. Upon arrival at NSP, DEP staff met with the following representatives of NSP, Matthew Ackerly, Richard Valiga and Hugh Archer.

DEP and NSP representatives proceeded to the biosolids composting area. Six windrows of biosolids/woodchips were actively composting in the two buildings. A moderate compost odor was detected directly downwind and in close proximity to the buildings.

All parties then proceeded to the active construction area for the Gore composting system. All eighteen bunkers are in various stages of construction. The side and back walls for all bunkers have been completed. The bunkers are currently being fitted with the aeration/moisture removal systems. Once this is completed, the concrete bunker floors will be poured. NSP anticipates that construction will be completed by early December. NSP is aware that they did not comply with the October 15th construction deadline and will submit stipulated penalties as required by the consent order and agreement.

All parties then proceeded to the finished compost and incoming biosolids processing pad. On this pad incoming biosolids are mixed with woodchips at a 4 to 1 ratio. The mixed biosolids are then transported to one of the two composting buildings to be actively composted. There was one windrow of the new biosolids/woodchip mixture on the pad. Also observed was a pile of newly composted material that needed to be screened to remove the woodchips. Some localized odors were observed in the area.

Lastly, the parties observed the finished compost storage pad. Three piles of finished compost were observed. Very little odor was observed in this area and it could be described as a “mulch” odor. DEP also observed sufficient quantity of wood chips to ensure adequate biosolids/woodchip ratio.

It appeared to the DEP staff present that other than the missed construction deadline, NSP was in compliance with the conditions of the COA and their operating permit.

DEP staff left the site at approximately 12:00 PM. DEP staff exited the site and travelled through Good Spring and Joliet to get to the interstate 81 onramp. No odors were detected.



Compost Windrows Building 1 20Oct2023



Compost Windrows Building 2 20Oct2023



Gore System Bunker Construction 20Oct2023



Bunker Construction Looking Down Access Road



Aeration-Moisture Removal Channel Installation



Aeration-Moisture Removal Channel Installed



Setting Aeration-Moisture Removal Channels



Gap between Bunkers Where Gore Blanket Machine will Operate



Compost Ready to be Screened 20Oct2023



Screens Used for Removing Woodchips from Finished Product 20Oct2023



New Biosolids mixed with Woodchips in Background



Finished Product 20Oct2023